

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem and Independence

Adults need to get better at celebrating children's explorations and understanding the power of their learning. We all want a child who believes he can learn and is eager to learn.

Expect your child to succeed
in school



Give your child challenges she
can master



Let your child make choices



Hug your child and tell him
you love him



Tips for New Kindergarten Parents

Creating a Successful Beginning



Indiana Department of
Education
Division of Prime Time

Parents are the child's first teacher.
Being involved in your child's education
WILL make a difference!

Reflect positive attitudes about school.

- ⇒ Share some of your family's good school stories.

Make a personal visit to the school with your child.

- ⇒ Take a walk around the school. Observe children, classrooms, the media center, cafeteria, and outside areas.

Pay attention to the different aspects of your child's development.

- ⇒ Physical Development
 - This aspect covers health, growth, and physical abilities.
- ⇒ Social and Emotional Development
 - This aspect refers to how the child interacts socially with peers and adults and how the child views him/herself and others.
- ⇒ Language and Speech Development
 - This includes listening, speaking, and vocabulary.
 - print and story awareness

- ⇒ General Knowledge
 - This includes knowledge acquired from experiences involving people, events, or objects and their similarities and differences.
- ⇒ Motivation, Attitudes, and Habits
 - This involves how the child learns about his world the best.

Activities and Opportunities should be part of a family's routine.

There are many activities which you and your child engage in during each day that can be excellent learning experiences for your child. The important thing to remember is to support your child's curiosity, imagination, and sense of wonder as she encounters each new learning experience.

- ⇒ Talk to your child
 - Talking builds brain connections, language and listening skills, and prepares the child for reading.
- ⇒ Read to your child
 - Brain cells make connections as a child hears words, looks at pictures, and sees letters.
 - Hold your child close and talk to them about the pictures, the story, and the book's features.
 - Ask questions. What do you think will happen next? What did you like best about the story? the least?

- Reading is the most important thing parents can do to support their child's beginning reading development.
- ⇒ Allow opportunities for your child to
 - sing and play;
 - learn rhymes,
 - 'read' books,
 - write notes, lists, and stories
 - help you shop
 - help you do chores
- explore and talk about the outside world
- listen to a story and draw a picture. Talk about it.

Spend time with your child. Show patience with your child. Virtually every activity during your child's day can be a learning experience. The more appropriate the experiences are, the easier the transition will be into the school community.



